



Parents FLAG Edmonton

JUNE 1995

NEXT "MEETING":

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

NOON

GAZEBO PARK

(Calgary Trail South & 83 Ave)

The 1995 annual **Gay Pride Parade and Picnic** gives all gay and gay positive people the opportunity to express their caring in a visible, highly supportive manner.

In the words of Marilyn Cass of PFLAG, Seattle-Tacoma, "We'll walk behind our banner that proclaims who we are and makes a powerful and visible statement to the entire straight community that **we love our gay and lesbian kids**. For me, this day is one of the most exciting, moving and empowering experiences of the year! The cheer that rises as we move forward along the route is certainly proof that PFLAG's efforts and presence are greatly valued. The waves and shouts of "**Thanks Mom, Thanks Dad,**" and the occasional bystander who breaks out of the crowd to run and hug a marching parent or friend is a visible sign that family ties are (or should be) the most enduring bonds...**Then, like no other time, I stand taller and stronger in the power of being "out".**



The **PFLAG PICNIC** follows immediately after the parade at **Queen Elizabeth Park**. Delicious hot dogs and thirst-quenching cold drinks will be sold. For info:

Cindy [redacted] ("reluctant chair")

Lynne [redacted] (Helpline)

Ellen [redacted] (Newsletter editor)

ANNUAL PFLAG BBQ

This fun-filled annual pot-luck will be held at Joan and Izzy's beautiful botanic garden centre:

July 15th '95 5:00pm

For info: Joan [redacted]

Bring your favorite dish and be greeted by **Maggie**, the sweet-scented iron lady!

PFLAG Edmonton's focus has the following three aspects:

- * **Support** - in an adverse society;
- * **Education** -to enlighten an ill-informed public; and
- * **Advocacy** - to ensure equal civil rights.

FOCUS: SUPPORT

PFLAG HELPLINE

Since the 1995 Edmonton phone book with our helpline phone number was distributed in March, the rate of phone calls to our *Helpline* has steadily been increasing. Lynne now counsels over 15 people a month with calls which include the following concerns:

- * A step-Dad seeking information to help his wife and stepson;
- * Several parents seeking information and support;



EVENTS CALENDAR**"FRIDAY NIGHTS
AT ORLANDO BOOKS"**

7:30 PM

JUNE 9, 1995

10640 - Whyte Ave

Join us as members of Queer Academy from the University of Alberta read from a selection of lesbian and gay fiction. **Queer Academy** is a coalition for lesbian, gay and bisexual studies which includes both students and faculty. 10% of sales made this evening will go to the OUTreach, a registered group for gays, lesbian and bisexuals.

"TAKE BACK THE NIGHT!"

Summer meetings:

7:00pm

June 13 & July 5, 95

Common Room

ASWAC Bldg, 9930-106 St.

This group is dedicated to making streets safe at night for ALL Edmontonians. Please contact Sylvia [redacted] for further info.

**GAY PRIDE PARADE!**

Meet at the MacIntyre (Strathcona) gazebo, 83 Ave & Calgary Trail South, at:

NOON

JUNE 24, '95

Come and celebrate PFLAG Edmonton's 5th anniversary by walking in the Gay Pride Parade - parents, family, and friends of gays and lesbians - all gay positive people are welcome to join us!

GAY PRIDE PICNIC!

Immediately following the Gay Pride Parade, a Gay Pride Picnic, organized by PFLAG, will be held at:

Queen Elizabeth Park

Hot dogs and cold drinks will be sold, fun and an opportunity to meet many gay positive people of all ages, races, orientations, etc. will be absolutely free! See you there.

VOICES OF PRIDE!

Edmonton Vocal Minority presents their Pride Week concert at Convocation Hall:

June 24, '95

8:00pm

For tickets & info: David [redacted]

This 70+ member choir promises to "sing up" to their usual amazing standards!

LIATRIS PRIDE WEEK EVENT!

Meet at the Devonian Botanic Gardens at 6:00pm Contact Wayne for costs and further details: [redacted]

IT'S A GAY LIFE!**IT'S NEW!IT'S O2!**

O2's Mission - "To provide a variety of opportunities for people of all sexual orientations to enjoy outdoor and recreational activities together in the hopes of building a stronger community."

How O2 works - O2 is a member run group in which club members volunteer to organize activities for their fellow members to participate in and enjoy. All activities are self funded and many are free. Our yearly membership fee is \$5 per calendar year to cover the costs of publishing and mailing out the newsletters. Call Jeff [redacted] or Darren [redacted] to subscribe.

Upcoming Events:

- * June 4, 11, 19 & 25 - Frontrunners
 - * June 4 - Beach Volleyball
 - * June 7 - Mountain Biking
 - * June 10 - Canoe Trip
 - * June 12 & 26 - Rollerblading
 - * July 15, 19 & 22 - Orienteering
- ...and much MUCH MORE!

O2 e-mail addresses:**Equipment Rentals:**

(For almost anything) U of A Outdoor Centre, 492-2767



IT'S A GAY LIFE!

JUNE 1995

MEL WHITE: THEOLOGIAN

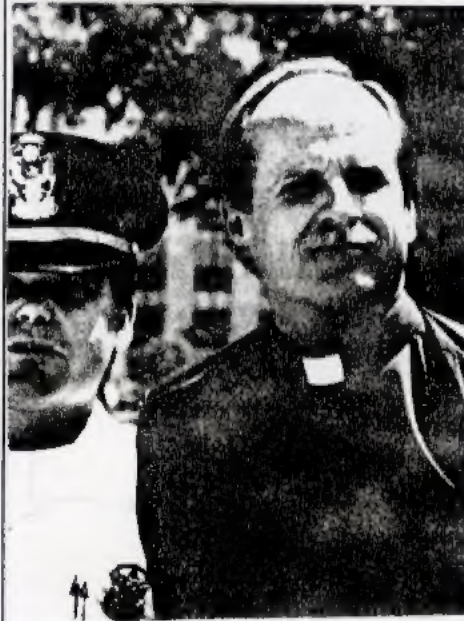
Mel White has told my story and that of thousands of evangelical gay Christians: the terrified youth, the prayers for deliverance, the belated introduction to the concept of social justice, the inauthentic marriage, the suicidal depressions, the same-sex affair, the divorce, and at long last, the authentic relationship.

Virginia Ramey
Mollenkott, WRITER

"Jerry Falwell and I had just flown into San Jose, California. We were driving in our limousine to church when we were cut off by a huge demonstration of gay people. They were angry because Jerry had said that AIDS was God's punishment on gays. As we went through the crowd, Jerry said, 'Thank God for these gay demonstrators. If I didn't have them to draw a crowd, I'd have to hire 'em. They give me all the attention I need.' I wanted to be outside demonstrating and there I was sitting inside the car. That was my point of shame.

Dr. Mel White told his wife he is gay the year they were married. With her support, he underwent exorcisms, ex-gay reparative therapy, and electric shock. Nothing worked. Eventually, he found himself hanging out around the corner from the West Hollywood Metropolitan

Community Church, trying to get the courage to go in. By the time



he finally went into MCC for the first time, White had developed an illustrious career as a ghost writer for such luminaries of the religious right as Billy Graham, Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, and Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker. He began leading more and more of a double life, and while still writing for Falwell, joined the Act Up demonstration at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Then he did the unthinkable and came out to his former colleagues, including Falwell, Robertson and Oliver North. Now none of them will speak to him. White had hopes for Billy Graham, but Graham has

remained silent. "He didn't attack gay people, even when he sermonized on Sodom and Gomorrah," says White, "but he did a big rally in Portland, Oregon before the vote on anti-gay Proposition 9. I tried to get him to speak out against it, but he didn't say anything. He says he's not a political figure. I told him that justice is a spiritual issue and his silence was aiding injustice."

White doesn't mind getting arrested every once in a while during demonstrations, and doesn't miss his old high-powered career at all. "Even if I were just ghost-writing autobiographies," he says, "I'd be part of the team that supports the enemy. As long as we stay closeted in homophobic churches, playing the organ, leading the choir, and giving our money, that's what we're doing: supporting the enemy. And keeping hate alive.

White is now dean of the Cathedral of Hope Metropolitan Community Church in Dallas, Texas, America's largest gay and lesbian congregation. He monitors the religious right and is creating an outreach for gay and lesbian people. And his message is hitting the mark. After CNN broadcast the Cathedral of Hope's 1993 Christmas Eve Service, requests for help and information flooded in from throughout the world.



EVENTS CALENDAR

LIATRIS SOCIETY

* April 30 - Crocuses @ Redwater Sandhills. Meet at [REDACTED] at 9 am. Info: Richard [REDACTED]

* May 13 - Perennial Exchange. Details to follow.

* May 19 - 22 -Long weekend at Sir Winston Churchill Prov. Park, Lac La Biche. Info: Mark, [REDACTED] Birdwatching, wildflowers, fishing etc.

ALBERTA SINGS OUT!

Saturday, April 29, '95

8:00pm

Convocation Hall, U of A

Join us for an evening as we perform with our guests:

- * The Rocky Mountain Singers (Calgary);
- * Bridge City Chorus (Saskatoon);
- * Over the Rainbow Community Singers (Calgary);
- * Unitas Edmonton; and

individuals from across Northern and Central Alberta!

This event is being hosted by PFLAG Edmonton. They will welcome you and answer any and all your questions about our group.

THE GREAT HUMAN RACE

Sunday, April 30, '95

10:00am

An 8km Run & 3km Fun Walk

Join the excitement and at the same time raise funds for your favourite non-profit agency and celebrate Volunteer Week. For entry forms and info phone:

Running Room: 433-6062

Volunteer Centre of Edmonton:

482-6431. Count yourself in!

ITS A GAY LIFE!

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT!

Tuesday, April 18, '95

7:30 pm

9930 - 106 St.

ASWAS Bldg

Take Back the Night is a group dedicated to making our city streets safe for people to walk on at night. We wish them much success.



ELUSIVE SPRING

Springtime plays her little game
Of peekaboo each year.
Now you see her; now you don't-
When next will she appear?

She's warm; she's cold; she's in between.
She's never what you guessed!
You start your day with coats and hats;
By noon your over dressed.

When pleasant days arrive at last,
You grab your gardening hoe.
"Gotcha!" says elusive spring.
"Next week, I'm sending snow!"

Darlene Christianson